THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Land being a State subject, the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Board of Approval considers only such applications for setting up SEZ which are duly recommended by the State Government concerned. However, various issues concerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy have been considered by the Government and it has been decided that applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to the condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs. Further, it has been decided to fix the upper limit of the area required for multi-product SEZs at 5000 hectares with the provision that the State Governments may prescribe a lower limit. Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address all relevant issues and also to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

(c) to (g) RBI has directed the Banks that exposure to SEZ Developers and for acquisition for SEZ units should treated as exposure to real estate and not as infrastructure. The matter has been placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers on SEZ issues for decision.

Mumbai-Delhi Industrial Corridor

3660. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start Mumbai-Delhi Industrial Corridor with the help of Japanese Government to be patterned on the lines of the Tokyo-Osaka Industrial belt;

(b) whether any detailed project report has been finalized;

(c) if so, which States and cities, the corridor would cover;

(d) what is the overall investment outlay, involved in the project and which Industries would from part of the development;

(e) whether such industrial corridors are placed in the regions of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on December 13, 2006 during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Japan for cooperating in establishment of the 'Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor' (DMIC). M/s IL&FS has been engaged by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion to prepare the concept paper for the project. The concept paper, after discussions with the Japanese Government is being aimed to be finalized by July 2007. The detailed project will be finalized thereafter. The overall investment outlay cannot be estimated at this stage. The Corridor is likely to pass through the States of NCT of Delhi, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. The objective of the project is to delineate areas along the alignment of the Dedicated Freight Corridor between Delhi and Mumbai to provide good quality connectivity and other infrastructure like investment hubs comprising of industrial parks and estates, SEZs, agro-processing zones etc.

(e) to (g) The proposed Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor does not cover the regions of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

Growth in exports

3661. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steady growth in exports this year;

(b) if so, the Indian items which are in great demand in foreign countries, enhancing the export potential;

(c) what is the current percentage of trade deficit; and

(d) the steps taken to bring down trade deficit?